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X

18 January 1955

25X1
Chief 26 JUN 1979 37169

Subject: [] Foreign Post Differential

Dear Joe:

I appreciate the concern of the [] staff over the possibility of losing the foreign post differential as recounted in the 11 January letter. This appears to be one more step in the government's wide economy move which is manifest in the President's budget address of yesterday.

While I do not wish you to interpret the following remarks as indicating any disposition to accept the findings of the board of officers on [] without vigorous protest, I do wish to submit the following observations for your consideration realizing full well that they may be inaccurate and acknowledging that you who are on the spot will have the most cogent comments on them.

(a) [] presently enjoys a 15 percent post differential, in comparison to [] which have none.

(b) The [] is nearing a point where new housing will be furnished to all members of the staff.

(c) [] is the only [] and in fact may be the only Agency component, which is able to pay for the schooling of dependent children. (This may be lost in future years, but be sure we will do all in our power to retain it.)

(d) Living costs on [] are generally no higher than living costs at other []. For example, a package of cigarettes in [] costs 50 cents as compared with 10 cents on []. Gasoline at the [] costs 50 cents a gallon as compared with the cost on [] which I understand is considerably lower.

On the other side of the ledger are all the facts which you site in your letter, not least of which is the considerable savings made through personnel of the [] extending or returning for second tours of duty.

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In this connection I have called the attention of Mr. Carey to the evidence of high morale at the [] as reflected in the number of personnel who either wish to extend their tours or to take another tour. This should be extremely gratifying to you since we are all well aware of the difficulties inherent in the maintaining of high morale on [] post. Not only do I wish to congratulate you, but I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your accomplishments in salutary position.

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I will keep you advised of what action we are able to take here in Washington on your immediate problem of foreign post differential reductions.

Sincerely,

[]
Chief, []

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AMW:jmb

O & 1 -- Add

1 -- AMW

1 -- Exec.